

In the Claims

1 1. [Original] A method for managing printer component inventories,
2 comprising:
3 defining one or more printer component rules for one or more printers in a
4 first organization and for one or more printers in a second organization, each printer
5 component rule defining a printer component event that, when it occurs, indicates
6 that the printer component requires replacement;
7 monitoring printer components in the printers in the first organization and the
8 second organization to detect an occurrence of a printer component event defined
9 by a printer component rule; and
10 replacing a printer component when a printer component event is detected in
11 a printer.

1 2. [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the replacing the
2 printer component further comprises ordering a replacement component to be
3 shipped to a location of the printer in which the printer component event was
4 detected.

1 3. [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the replacing the
2 printer component further comprises shipping a replacement component to a location
3 of the printer in which the printer component event was detected.

1 4. [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the printer
2 component further comprises a printer component selected from the following list of
3 printer components: toner cartridge; ink cartridge; ribbon cartridge; dry medium
4 cartridge; ink bladder; photoconductor; drum; belt; developer assembly; cleaning
5 roller; oiling roller; transfer assemblies; print head.

1 5. [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:
2 the printer component is a toner cartridge for a laser printer; and
3 the printer component event is a low toner condition in the toner cartridge.

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1 6. [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising
2 presenting an interface to the first organization and to the second organization, the
3 interface allowing the first organization and the second organization to define the
4 printer component rules for each respective organization.

1 7. [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein detecting the
2 printer component event further comprises receiving notification from an
3 organization that the printer component event has occurred in one of the printers in
4 the organization.

1 8. [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the monitoring
2 further comprises periodically polling the printer components of the printers in the
3 first and second organizations.

1 9. [Original] A system for managing printer components in one or more
2 organizations, comprising:
3 a processor;
4 memory;
5 connection means for establishing at least one electronic connection with a
6 first organization and at least one electronic connection with a second organization,
7 each organization having at least one printer that includes one or more printer
8 components;
9 a rules-based printer component management system configured to monitor
10 the printers in the first and second organizations for the occurrence of a printer
11 component event in a printer component, the occurrence of the printer component
12 event indicating that the printer component requires replacement; and
13 replacing the printer component in which the printer component event
14 occurred.

1 10. [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, further comprising an
2 order module configured to order a replacement component, and wherein the
3 replacing the printer component further comprises ordering a replacement
4 component to replace the printer component.

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1 11. [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, further comprising:
2 a rules table that stores printer events for one or more printers in one or more
3 organizations; and
4 an interface module configured to present an interface to the one or more
5 organizations, allowing each organization to enter rules in the rules table for the one
6 or more printers of the organization.

1 12. [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the connection
2 means further comprises a network interface card that provides a connection with a
3 network.

1 13. [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the connection
2 means is a modem that provides a telephone line connection with a computing
3 device.

1 14. [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the rules-based
2 printer component management system monitors the printers by periodically polling
3 a status of the printer components in the printers for the occurrence of a printer
4 component event.

1 15. [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the rules-based
2 printer component management system monitors the printers by receiving a
3 notification from the printer that a printer component event has occurred.

1 16. [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the rules-based
2 printer component management system monitors the printers by receiving a
3 notification from the first or second organization that a printer component event has
4 occurred in an organization printer.

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1 17. [Previously Presented] Computer-readable media containing computer-
2 executable instructions that, when executed on a computer, perform the following
3 steps:

4 monitoring printer component conditions in one or more printers of more than
5 one organization;

6 referring to printer component rules defined for the one or more printers to
7 determine if a printer component event has occurred that indicates that a
8 replacement component is required for the printer component in which the printer
9 component event has occurred, the printer component event occurring when printer
10 component conditions satisfy at least one of the printer component rules; and

11 replacing the printer component that requires replacement with a replacement
12 component.

1 18. [Previously Presented] The computer-readable media as recited in
2 claim 17, wherein replacing the printer component further comprises ordering the
3 replacement component to be shipped to a location of the printer in which the
4 replacement component is required.

1 19. [Previously Presented] The computer-readable media as recited in
2 claim 17, wherein replacing the printer component further comprises shipping the
3 replacement component to a location of the printer in which the replacement
4 component is required.

1 20. [Previously Presented] The computer-readable media as recited in
2 claim 17, further comprising additional computer-executable instructions that, when
3 executed on a computer, perform the following step:

4 presenting an interface to the organizations allowing each organization to
5 define printer component rules for the printers of the organization.

1 21. [Previously Presented] The computer-readable media as recited in
2 claim 17, wherein the monitoring printer component conditions further comprises
3 periodically polling the printers to determine the printer component conditions.

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1 22. [Previously Presented] The computer-readable media as recited in
2 claim 17, wherein the monitoring printer component condition further comprises
3 receiving notification from an organization when a printer component event has
4 occurred in a printer in the organization.

1 23. [Previously Presented] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
2 monitoring comprises monitoring using processing circuitry.

1 24. [Previously Presented] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
2 monitoring comprises monitoring using an entity remotely spatially located from at
3 least one of the printers of at least one of the organizations.

1 25. [Previously Presented] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
2 monitoring comprises monitoring the printer components in a plurality of the printers
3 of the first and second organizations using a single entity.

1 26. [Previously Presented] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the
2 rules-based printer component management system comprises a single entity
3 configured to monitor the plurality of printers via the connection means.

1 27. [Previously Presented] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the
2 rules-based printer component management system comprises a single entity
3 remotely spatially located from at least one of the printers of at least one of the
4 organizations.

1 28. [Previously Presented] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the
2 rules-based printer component management system is configured to store thresholds
3 for a plurality of printers of the first and second organizations and to communicate
4 with the printers.

1 29. [Previously Presented] The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the
2 ordering comprises ordering responsive to the occurrence of the printer component
3 event of one of the printers.

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1 30. [Previously Presented] The computer-readable media as recited in
2 claim 17, wherein the monitoring comprises, using the computer, monitoring the
3 printer component conditions in a plurality of printers of a plurality of organizations.

1 31. [Previously Presented] The computer-readable media as recited in
2 claim 30, wherein the computer is remotely spatially located from at least one of the
3 printers of at least one of the organizations.

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